Panel of advertising agencies in SR

3294. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 5239 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 2003 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two advertising agencies which have been discredited by the Indian Newspaper Society and having dues over crores of rupees payable to members publications have been continuing in the panel of advertising agencies of Southern Railway ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not disqualifying them from the panel;

(c) whether there is nexus between the concerned agencies and officials of Southern Railway; and

(d) the action to be taken by the Government against such officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) One of the six accredited advertising agencies, empanelled by Southern Railway for the period 2002–04, has been put on notice by Indian Newspaper Society for disaccredition in July, 2002. Since then, Southern Railway has stopped release of advertisements through the said agency

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Golden hour scheme

†3295. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have decided to undertake 'golden hour scheme' to ensure that relief and medical team approach the victims within 60-90 minutes in case of rail accident;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount estimated to be spent on said scheme; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details of Railways Divisions in which the said scheme is proposed to be started initially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) The first hour after an accident is termed as the 'Golden Hour', as it is believed that chances of survival of a victim increase manifold if medical/surgical intervention is arranged within this hour.

Although no 'Golden Hour' scheme has been launched, Railways are making concerted efforts to accelerate the relief to reach the accident victims within the 'Golden Hour', as much as possible.

(c) and (d) The strengthening of the infrasturcture to speed up relief work has been taken up simultaneously in all the Railway Zones. Approximate cost of the implementation of this project is Rs. 400 crores, to be spent in the next three years.

Train service for Mau and Azamgarh

3296. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no direct train service from Mau and Azamgarh in U.P. to New Delhi and a considerable number of Members of Parliament are residing in that area;

(b) whether he has repeatedly assured Members of Parliament of that area to introduce a direct train for New Delhi; and

(c) if so, by when a direct train connecting Mau and Azamgarh to New Delhi would be introduced for convenience of the MPs and the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) At present, 4649/4650 Amritsar-Darbhanga Saryu Yamuna Express is available between Mau/Azamgarh and Delhi. Further, a new Express train is proposed to be introduced between Delhi and Azamgarh during 2003-2004, as announced in the Railway Budget, 2003.

Funds for bridges

3297. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of rail bridges in the country need urgent repairs/replacement;